Medi-Cal Covers Over Half of the State’s Kids
Children Now’s Current Issue Coverage

**CHILDREN’S HEALTH**
- Coverage & Access
  (ACA Implementation, Health Homes)
- Former Foster Youth Health Coverage
- Oral Health
- Early Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Media & Health
  (Advertising & Obesity, Nutrition, Portrayal of Race)

**INTEGRATED SERVICES**
- Home Visiting
- Developmental Screening & Early Intervention
- School-Based Health Services

**CHILD WELFARE**
- Family Preservation & Reunification
- Stability & Permanency
- Juvenile Justice

**EDUCATION**
- Early Learning Access & Quality
  (Child Care, Preschool & TK)
- Statewide Kindergarten Readiness Assessment
- Common Core, STEM & Early Math
- Chronic Absence
- Equity Finance Reform
- Foster Youth Education Reform
- Teaching Effectiveness
- Expanded Learning/Out of School Time
- Education Technology
Research
Spotlights children’s needs statewide

- Key publications provide significant annual coverage of individual issues:
  - Early learning, K-12 education, foster care, health care etc.
  - Highlight need for comprehensive, integrated solutions
  - Underscore regional and ethnic disparities
Policy
The Pro-Kid Agenda -- A guide to the top policy priorities

At-A-Glance: The 2015-16 Pro-Kid Policy Agenda for California

Education: Early Learning
1. Expand high-quality child care opportunities for families and children
2. Support strong partnerships and investments to increase access to high-quality child care
3. Focus on quality of early childhood learning spaces, including schools, Head Start, and non-profit daycare
4. Strengthen coordination between early learning and Pre-K systems, as well as other early education efforts between children, families, and schools

Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice
20. Support the development of comprehensive strategies for children in foster care, including educational programs, and foster child health

Health
12. Expand access to transportation and community resources and improve access to early intervention services
13. Expand access to essential services and support for children with special needs
14. Support children with disabilities in their educational and social environments
15. Provide every child with affordable and accessible health insurance coverage

CHILDBREN NOW

PRO-KID
Advocacy
Giving kids punch -- The Children’s Movement of California

Over 1,000 organizations have joined the Movement already, including:
Top priorities for kids in Medi-Cal

1. Increased opportunities to analyze & address children’s unique needs
2. Home visiting
3. Developmental & behavioral screenings
4. Vaccinations
5. Coverage for former foster youth
6. Implementing behavioral health treatment for children with autism spectrum disorders
Over half of California’s kids are enrolled in Medi-Cal

As of July 2012 nearly 4.5 million children under 18 were enrolled in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. During 2013, all children in the separate Healthy Families Program were transferred into the consolidated Medi-Cal program.

Almost 560,000 children (ages 0-18) were enrolled in Medi-Cal during the Covered California open enrollment period between October 1, 2013 and March 31, 2014. This is 29% of the total number enrolled in Medi-Cal via the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment, and Retention System.

Adding these two numbers together, we estimate there are at least 5 million children enrolled in Medi-Cal as of mid-2014.

There were approximately 9.16 million children under 18 in California in 2013, or 23.9% of the total 38,332,521 Californians.

55%
that’s over half of all California’s kids!
Opportunities to analyze & address kids’ needs

+ Medi-Cal Children’s Health Advisory Panel
+ DATA! Need more child-specific data, for example a pediatric version of the Medi-Cal managed care dashboard
+ Transfer between Medi-Cal & Covered California
+ Unique access and reimbursement rate impacts
Voluntary home visiting

Only a small number of California’s young children have received home visits

65% have 1 or more risk factors and would likely benefit from home visiting

have received 1 or more home visits 11%

Based on 1.4 million children age 0 - 3 in California
Risk factors include poverty, health, school, and developmental problems
Developmental & behavioral screenings

+ Pediatricians recommend that infants and toddlers receive a developmental & behavioral screening at least 3 times before a child’s 3rd birthday (Bright Futures guidelines)

+ Developmental & behavioral screenings are a proven way to identify children in need and connect them with early intervention services

+ Only 29% of California’s infants/toddlers receive recommended screenings, including only 10% of Black, non-Hispanic infants/toddlers (2011-12)

+ Need Medi-Cal-specific data on developmental & behavioral screenings

+ Need better linkages between the health care system and early intervention, education, child care, child welfare, social services sectors at the local level
Vaccinations

+ Recent California-based outbreaks of whooping cough and measles have heightened the public health risks of infectious disease and the consequences of lowered herd immunity – an issue complicated by personal belief exemptions

+ Medi-Cal and the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program are key sites and sources of vaccination delivery

+ DHCS identified improvements in 2-year-old immunization rates as a priority in their draft 2014 Quality Strategy report, based on HEDIS scores.

+ Supports and incentives will need to be aligned for providers and plans throughout the layers of contracting to improve and sustain immunization rates in practices
Enrolling former foster youth in Medi-Cal

- **Covered til 26** outreach campaign to enroll former foster youth in Medi-Cal

- Former foster youth must enroll at county offices because CalHEERS does not yet correctly assign them to Medi-Cal
Implementing behavioral health treatment coverage for children in Medi-Cal

+ Behavioral Health Treatment for children with autism spectrum disorder added as a covered benefit; State Plan Amendment submitted September 30, 2014

+ Major outstanding questions –
  + Will rates be sufficient?
  + Will Comprehensive Diagnostic Evaluation (CDE) will be required before any services are covered, even for kids younger than 3 years?

### Medi-Cal Managed Care Beneficiaries Receiving BHT Services
(9/15/14 – 1/10/15)

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<td>Referred for Assessment:</td>
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<tr>
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</table>
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Children Now
www.childrennow.org

Covered til 26
www.coveredtil26.org

Medi-Cal Children’s Health Advisory Panel
www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Medi-Cal_Childrens_Health_Advisory_Panel.aspx